



Police Response to Individuals in Mental Health Crisis

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Fort Worth Police Department

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The number of calls for service involving individuals dealing with a mental health crisis continue to increase. With the creation of the Crisis Intervention Team, Fort Worth has taken a proactive approach through its public/private partnerships in order to reduce the risks for the officers and citizens.



Fort Worth PD Crisis Intervention – All Officers

- Up until 2017
 - Crisis Intervention taught to recruits
 - OTJ experience often the only refresher afterwards
 - Additional training available, but not mandated
 - Training led predominately by officers

Fort Worth PD Crisis Intervention – All Officers

- Currently
 - Crisis Intervention taught to recruits
 - Additional mandated MH training for street-level officers
 - Led by MH professionals teaching in tandem with CIT officers
 - Biannual refresher courses for Basic Peace Officers
 - Patrol able to call upon CIT officers for reference/assistance while on scene of active mental health calls



Fort Worth Police Crisis Intervention Team

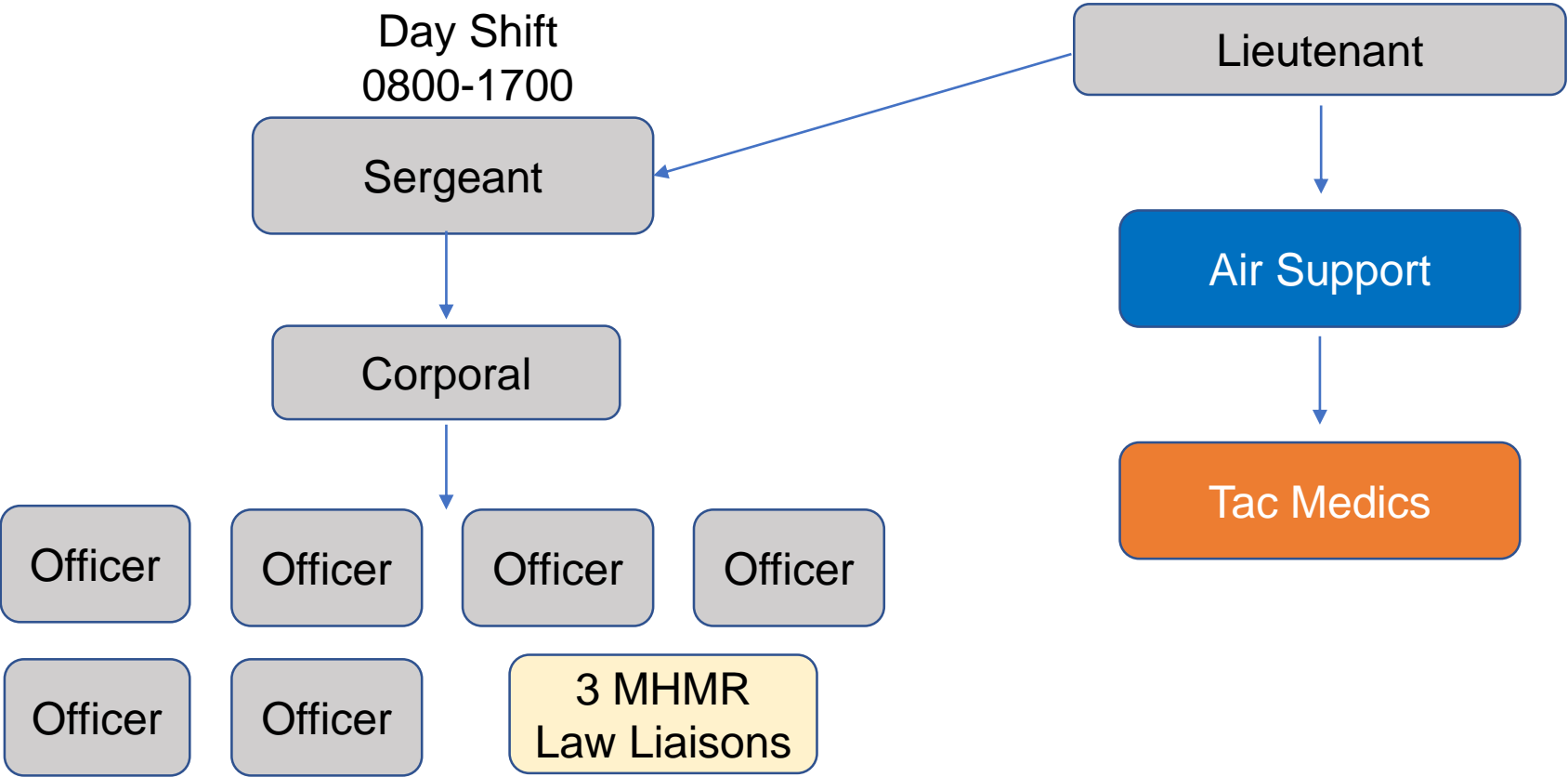
The mission of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is to reduce the hazards associated with interactions between law enforcement and people suffering from mental illness as well as proactively engaging mental health individuals who pose a threat to the community.

This is accomplished by conducting in-home follow-ups with MH individuals, assisting Patrol on calls where MH is a component, creating policy and oversight for officers, training officers in the classes mentioned earlier, and being the voice of negotiation during traditionally tense and dynamic scenes.



Fort Worth Police Crisis Intervention Team

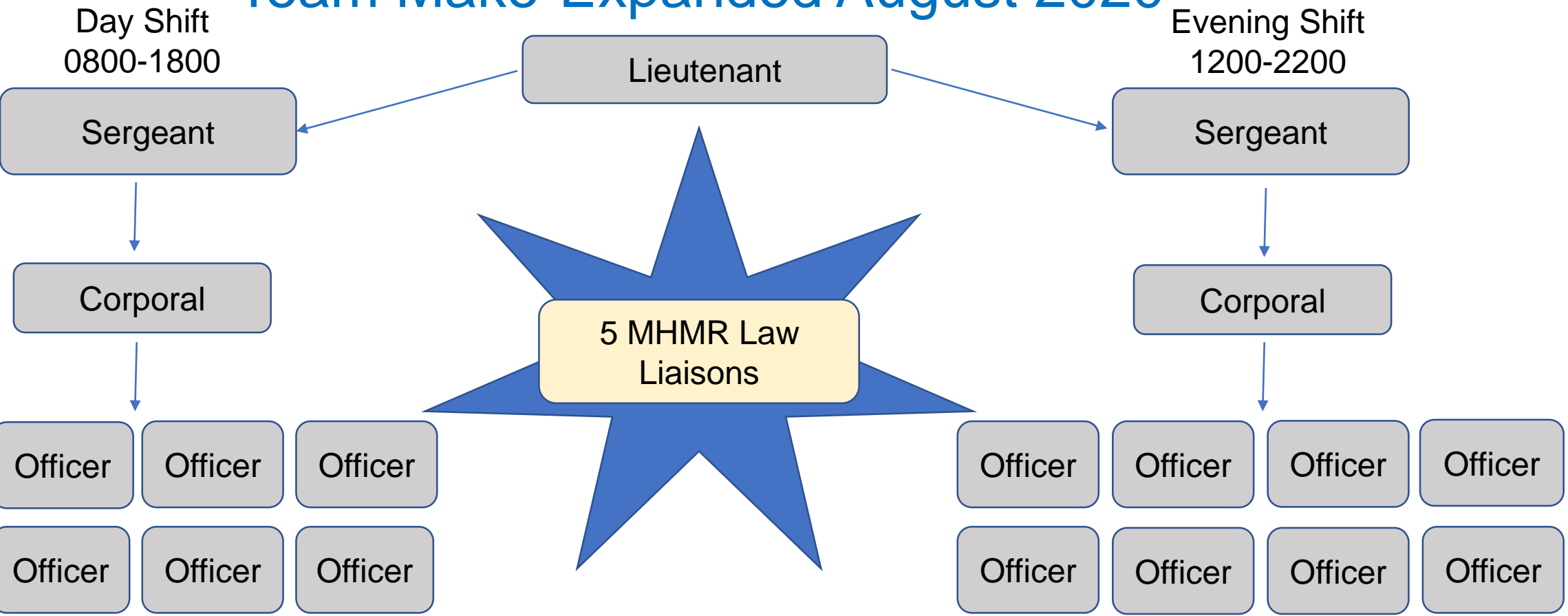
Initial Team Makeup in April 2018





Fort Worth Police Crisis Intervention Team

Team Make-Expanded August 2020



Available 24/7, whether on-duty or on-call.

Fort Worth Police Crisis Intervention Team

- Different Approach
 - Emphasis on de-escalation
 - Physically ride out with MHMR professionals daily
 - Law Liaisons take the lead on calls when violence is minimal
 - Assigned to a side of town to learn the needs
- Different Look
 - Alternate uniform designed to be less intimidating
 - Alternate vehicles
 - Jail diversion



How do we train our CIT Officers?

- 40 hours CIT training
- 40 hours MHOT (MH Officer Training)
- 40 hours Hostage Negotiation School
- Field Training packet covering MH concerns
- Multiple weeks OTJ with MH Law Liaisons (varies with experience)
- Regular specialized scenario training in the Mock Village
- TCOLE Instructor School
- Daily interaction for MH counselors/therapists



How do we measure success?

- Weekly stat tracking
 - Follow-up visits (each is a potential 911 call diverted)
 - Mental Detentions
 - Various other metrics pertaining to MH
 - Patrol call load assistance
 - Cooperative efforts with other agencies/units
 - FBI, Homeland Security
 - SWAT, Patrol, Various investigative bodies



CIT 2021 Data (Through August 27, 2021)

Fort Worth Police CIT has:

- Answered over 8,300 calls for service, removing them from patrol's hands
- Assisted patrol, acting as advisors and advocates, for those needing MH assistance over 3100 times
- Conducted over 3,700 MH follow-ups, averting call for service
- Conducted 142 public safety risk follow ups
- Answered 704 suicide attempt calls
- Conducted 551 emergency mental detentions, diverting individuals from the criminal justice system
- Seized 32 firearms
- Has assisted outside agencies on 74 operations involving dangerous individuals capable of mass casualty level events
- Has provided personnel for 138 days to train their fellow officers



CIT Awards



One Safe Place Award-April 17, 2018

Chief's Letter of Appreciation to the Law Liaisons-January 27, 2019

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Public Service Award by the Governor-June 21, 2019

American Police Hall of Fame Silver star for Bravery to Sergio Dominguez-January 19, 2021

Thank you

Questions?

